



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications
415-554-6131

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**BAY AREA OFFICIALS UNITE IN CALL TO BRING
HIGHSPEED RAIL TO SAN FRANCISCO**

Mayor Newsom, City officials and transportation advocates urge leadership in Sacramento to expedite HighSpeed Rail measure and provide funding for CalTrain extension to downtown

San Francisco, CA – Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Jake McGoldrick and transportation advocates today united and called on the leadership in Sacramento to keep the vision of High Speed Rail alive and advocated for State funding for CalTrain downtown, as a key transportation improvement and the first step toward High Speed Rail. The press conference today coincides with AB 713 by Assemblymember Torrico, which is currently being amended to push the HighSpeed Rail bond to 2008, and to include \$116 M for bridge funds to keep the project on schedule – funds used to complete engineering and right of way protection.

“The decisions we make now on how we prioritize state transportation funding will have a huge impact on California’s future,” said Mayor Newsom. “We must look forward by investing in a truly effective system of mass transit, not backwards by repeating the mistakes of the past and building more highways that drive development into our precious green spaces,” continued Newsom.

The California High Speed Rail project will be over 700 miles long, with 30 potential station locations. The estimated total cost of the project is approximately 40 Billion Dollars. The first portion of the high speed rail system is intended to connect San Francisco to Los Angeles.

Together, Caltrain and High Speed Rail combined are expected to move about 60,000 people per day through the Transbay Terminal. The buses will carry another 25,000 riders a day.

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, Chair of the County Transportation Authority and a strong advocate for bringing HighSpeed Rail to San Francisco stated, “Countries all over the world have seen the wisdom of investing in high speed rail as a major transit option particularly as fossil fuel driven vehicles become less and less viable in the future. California needs to follow the lead of enlightened cultures such as France, the UK, Germany, and Japan.”

HighSpeed Rail and Caltrain will use the same tracks to reach the Transbay Terminal. Advocates at today’s press conference also encouraged the California Transportation Commission and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to prioritize funding for the electrification of Caltrain, and the construction of the tunnel and tracks needed to bring Caltrain downtown. With this support, San Francisco would build the first segment of High Speed Rail in Northern California.

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